

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: February 2, 2021

Incidental Notes.

- February 2nd on BI was about 35F, breezy and cloudy, following a blustery (40-60mph gusts) snow storm during the previous day & night. Alas, early-Monday snow was replaced by sleet/slush mid-afternoon, and then rain overnight, so no snow left to be enjoyed on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Based on comments below from UK participants, they were having similar weather.

- A word about European species: Tits are a large group in Europe, with different species in different regions, including several in the UK. Tits are similar to the many Chickadee species found throughout the North America.

You will notice that I have not demarked Raven or Bohemian Waxwing in the list as being European species (although they are reported from there); this is because both the European and the North American birds are the same Genus species. Raven (European) = Common Raven (U.S.)

- Both lists are an aggregate of observations from the two groups of observers (B.I. and Afar).
- A note of caution: when counting at a bird feeder it is the most reliable/conservative to count the number of a species seen at any one time. Care should be taken to not over count by tallying the cumulative number seen.
- [Things in brackets are notes by me - kg] How I quantify: Several=5, Few=3, Many=10

Block Island

(27 species)

Snow Goose – 1

Canada Geese – 263

American Black Duck – 1

Mallard – 77

Bufflehead – 1

Common Goldeneye – 1

Ring-necked Pheasant – 1

Northern Harrier – 1

Black-bellied Plover – 20

Herring Gull – 3

Great Black-backed Gull – 1

Gull species – 1

Mourning Dove – 11
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Blue Jay – 5
American Crow – 84
Black-capped Chickadee – 7
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Carolina Wren – 1
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1
European Starling – 51+
Song Sparrow – 4
White-throated Sparrow – 9
Northern Cardinal – 14
House Finch – 3
American Goldfinch – 3
House Sparrow – 19+

From Afar Little Compton & Narragansett Bay, and Cumberland RI; Woodbury, CT; St Petersburg, FL; Roseburg, OR; Sedbergh, England; Edinburgh, Scotland; Drangedal, Norway.
(74 species)

Canada Goose – 20 + 1800!
Mute Swan – 2
Muscovy Duck – 13
American Wigeon – 3
Mallard – 4
Ring-necked Duck – 49
Greater Scaup – 4
Common Eider – 2
Surf Scoter – 5
Black Scoter – 3
Bufflehead – 7
Common Goldeneye – 12
Hooded Merganser – 3

Red-breasted Merganser – 7
Ruddy Duck – 9
Common Loon – 2
Pied-billed Grebe – 21
Horned Grebe – 2
American White Pelican – 8
Brown Pelican – 5
Double-crested Cormorant – 59
Cormorant species – 1
Great Blue Heron – 2
Great Egret – 2
Snowy Egret – 1
Tricolored Heron – 1
Cattle Egret – 6
Green Heron – 1
White Ibis – 35
Black Vulture – 1
Turkey Vulture – 12
Osprey – 1
Bald Eagle – 1
Northern Harrier – 1
*Buzzard – 1
Common Gallinule (Moorhen) – 15
Limpkin – 1
Laughing Gull – 40
Ring-billed Gull – 31
Herring Gull – 13
Great Black-backed Gull – 2
Gull species – 45
Tern species – 2
Mourning Dove – 1
Rock Pigeon – 7

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 3

*Magpie – 5

*Jay – 8

Blue Jay – 2

American Crow – 8

*Crow species – 3

*Raven – 1

*Blue Tit – 20

*Great Tit – 35

*Willow Tit – 6

*Coal Tit – 1

Black-capped Chickadee – 2

Tufted Titmouse – 3

Carolina Wren – 4

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1

Eastern Bluebird – 20

*Stonechat – 1

*Robin – 1

*Blackbird – 5

European Starling – 4

Bohemian Waxwing – 2

Palm Warbler – 5

Pine Warbler – 11

Yellow-rumped Warbler – 16

Song Sparrow – 3

White-throated Sparrow – 1


Slate-colored Junco – 7

Northern Cardinal – 5

Boat-tailed Grackle – 1

House Finch – 3

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hello Kim, and Happy Groundhog Day! In keeping with today's dreary weather, Nigel and I stayed indoors and watched our backyard birds! Here's what we saw: Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2 (both female), Northern Cardinal 7 (at least), Blue Jay 2, Mourning Dove 2, American Crow 2, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, B-C Chickadee 4, White-throated Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 2, House Sparrow 8 (at least). Cheers,

Corrie Heinz – At Heinz field & environs. 1 snow goose, 20 black bellied, 150 canade geese, 60 + crow, 1 male northern harrier, 1 black duck , 12 pair mallard

Dan Kasuba – Hi Kim, Despite high winds and low temps(for Florida-40s-50s) for the past 2 days it was a sunny day today. All sightings were in St. Petersburg FL. AM Crescent Lake - 40 laughing gulls/30 ring-billed gulls, 38 ring necked ducks, 20 pied billed grebes, 6 cattle egrets, 2 great blue herons, 1 green heron, 1 great egret, 1 tricolored heron, 50 double crested cormorants, 1 boat tailed grackle, 1 osprey, 1 limpkin, 2 mallards, 8 American white pelicans, 5 brown pelicans, 35 white ibises, 13 Muscovy ducks, 5 turkey vultures, 1 blue gray gnatcatcher, 5 palm warblers, 15 common galinules. Afternoon- sawgrass Lake Park- 1 bald eagle, 1 great egret, 1 snowy egret, 1 black and 7 turkey vultures, 11 pine and 16 yellow-rumped warblers, 2 mallards, 1 downy woodpecker, 2 large unidentified terns and 1 cormorant.

Darcy Thurrott – Woodbury, CT Not much of a list while having breakfast and then shoveling for several hrs. Feb. 2: 9am - 1pm, 32° very windy, overcast after 12" drifted snow, blizzard conditions yesterday through 1am this morning: Mourning dove 1, Red bellied woodpecker 1, Downy 1, Blue Jay 1, Chickadee 2, Tufted titmouse 1, Carolina wren 1, European starling 4, Song sparrow 1, White throated sparrow 3, Dark eyed junco 6, Northern cardinal 5, House finch 3. Thanks. Hope you had a good count!

Elsbeth Crawford– Hi Kim. We have not had the same degree of wind that I believe BI experienced, but regret that this morning was dreich [look it up or guess]. Therefore looking out the window and a short walk along the local primary school wild play strip. At least 7 pigeons crowding/sheltering in one tree, 1 European robin - he is in the picture, 1 small brown ?? that hid in the holly in the second picture, could not see to identify, just caught his movement. Several songs - probably our blackbirds. That's all!

Faye Benedict – Dear Kim and coots: My unexciting but crowded birdfeeder count from Drangedal (it is in the single digits F here): 20 blue tits, 35 kjøttmeis (Great tit - Parus major), 6 granmeis (willow tit - Poecile montanus - see photo), 8 European jays (nøtteskrike), 5 magpies, 1 raven. No groundhogs! cheers, Faye

Willow tit, (from wikipedia)



Feb. 4, 2021: Too late to add another interesting and beautiful bird? I saw 2 today, for the first time all winter. Sidensvans = Bohemian Waxwing, Bombycilla garrulus.

I read in the book that they are berry-eaters (especially rowanberries, even if frozen. They tend to get drunk on them, but have amazing livers and can recover fast). It also says they start moving up to northern Norway again (from S. Norway or points south of here) in Feb.-March so maybe that is what's happening. Passing through on their way north. Or, since they aren't uncommon, they could have been around the whole time but I haven't seen them.



Gail & Shorty Cahill – Good morning Kim. Bird Walk 2/2/2021 Our Yard: 15 Crows, 25 Canada geese, 1 Gull, 1 Kinglet at feeder (previous days saw with yellow on the head) [yellow on head = Golden-crowned Kinglet], 2 Goldfinches at feeder, 1 Pheasant (heard). Miss the walks. Gail and Shorty.

Heather Hatfield – Overcast/windy, 36F. At bridge & feeders. It was strangely quiet at my feeders. Common Goldeneye 1, Bufflehead 1, BC Chickadee 3, Blue Jay 2, Starling 1, Cardinal 7, Mourning Dove 9, Goldfinch 1, House Finch 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, House Sparrow 11, White-throat 7, Song sparrow 2.

John Berg – Jan. 31 in Little Compton. Bluebirds, Kim! some flocks came through last Friday, were still around on Sunday. We had about 20 of them here at my place, in the hollies. More over at Geoff Dennis's place, more down at Goosewing. They may still be around, but the berries are gone! Beautiful little birds to watch. I can count on one hand how many times I have seen bluebirds. But always in a flock, and always late winter. So, perhaps spring is coming!

Kim Gaffett – Birded around the home/Mill Tail Swamp Pond neighborhood. Mallards 53, Black Duck 2, Canada Geese 88+, Starling 50+, A. Crow 7, Blue Jay 1, House Finch 2, Carolina Wren 1, Herring Gull 3, GBBG 1.

Laura Rosenzweig - Sedbergh, England. Jan.26: I always see the most interesting things when we're not doing the census! I'm pretty sure I saw a Stonechat yesterday (<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/stonechat/>) — a female with duller colouring but it was the reddish breast that made me stop and look more closely. Must get those binoculars and put them in my pocket!

Feb. 2: Finally went outside for a walk in the wind. It has stopped snowing and what did fall has turned to slush. It's a lot milder than it looks or sounds. Blew away the cobwebs. Only saw one more coal tit, which I could hear so stood still and looked and looked until I found it looking back at me and keeping a wary eye on a certain ginger dog. Saw a few more crows in trees and fields then as I came back down the lane I saw a large bird flying towards me. That's larger than a crow, me thinks, and as it glided overhead I decided it must be a buzzard. Too large for a kestrel and we don't tend to see any other large hawks around here, that I recognise anyway.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – When I arrived at Goosewing Beach and Preserve on Wednesday Feb 3rd the surf was way up and all the parking lot spots were full occupied by the many surfers. Tunipus Pond was half iced over and lots of ducks were close to the viewing area along the beach, which is uncommon. Most of the ducks listed in my count were seen in that pond. As I approached Quicksand Pond I noticed a person counting ducks with scope, it turned out to be a URI grad student (that I know!!!) conducting a duck survey. After a quick chat and a lesson on pied-billed grebe ID I decided to tag along on her next survey to a site that overlooks Narragansett Bay. Here is my list for the two sites:

Goosewing Reserve/Tunipus Pond -Little Compton: Canada Goose 20, Mute Swan 2, American Wigeon 3, Ring-necked Duck 11, Surf Scoter 1, Bufflehead 2, Common Goldeneye 6, Hooded Merganser 3, Red-breasted Merganser 7, Ruddy Duck 9, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Ring-billed Gull 1, Herring Gull 13, Great Black-backed Gull 2, Double-crested Cormorant 9, Northern Harrier 1, Song Sparrow 2

Town Way / Narragansett Bay -Little Compton **Canada Goose 1800**, Greater Scaup 4, Common Eider 2, Surf Scoter 4, Black Scoter 3, Bufflehead 5, Common Goldeneye 6, Horned Grebe 2, gull sp. 45, Common Loon 2, American Crow 8, Carolina Wren 2. Happy to share!!!!

Penny Lapham/Curt Milton – Third party report (Penny to Curt to Kim) report of a downy woodpecker in Roseburg, OR.

Tim Mooney – It was very quiet at my house in Cumberland the morning after the storm, as if the wind had swept the birds right out of the neighborhood. Blue Jay – 1, Dark-eyed Junco – 1, Tufted Titmouse – 2, Carolina Wren – 1. I finally saw the wren I've been hearing all winter, hopping around in the neighbor's backyard. Also, the titmice started singing "peter, peter, peter" in mid to late-mornings. Started about a week ago.